

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to require their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It also appears that such a production as Stolen Honor impacts the "fair time" requirement during election campaigns.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced by an essentially anonymous entity which is typically non-local to the broadcasting stations, it's more important to broadcast real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you very much.